

Drivers talking on cell phones can miss seeing up to 50% of what's around them.

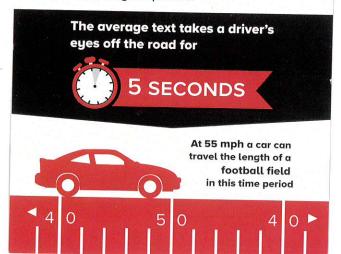
Why? Activity in the area of the brain that processes moving images decreases by as much as 37% when listening to someone talking on a cell phone.



In Utah, the two biggest distractions contributing to crashes:

CELL PHONES AND PASSENGERS

So let's cut down on distractions by not touching our phones.







In 2018, Utah reported approximately 2,000,000 licensed drivers and at any moment 7% of drivers are using cell phones. That's 137,000 distracted drivers on Utah roads.

NOTHING REPLACES ACTIVE ATTENTION



Start navigation apps before you begin to drive



Put your phone on Do Not Disturb or Drive mode



Place your phone in the glovebox to avoid reacting to notifications







HB 160 – Distracted Driver Amendments Sponsor: Rep. Carol Moss

This bill prohibits most uses of a handheld wireless communication device, i.e., a cell phone, while operating a motor vehicle.

- Provides limited exceptions
- Amends penalties for a violation

Hands-free means the use of a cell phone by holding it in your hand or manually manipulating it.

You can manually manipulate it by a single swipe or tap of a finger if it is mounted on the vehicle's windshield, dashboard, or center console, if it doesn't hinder the driver's view.

A driver may not use a cell phone while operating a vehicle—to read or write a text message, an instant message, email, or to view or record video.

Exceptions:

- During a medical emergency
- When reporting a safety hazard or requesting assistance related to a safety hazard
- When reporting criminal activity or requesting assistance relating to a criminal activity
- When used by a law enforcement officer or emergency service personnel acting within the course and scope of the officer's or emergency personnel's employment.

The penalties: (a) an infraction; or a class B misdemeanor if the person has also inflicted serious bodily injury on a person as a result of using the cell phone while operating a moving vehicle.